



Cudahy Fire Department
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THE KNOX BOX



The Cudahy Fire Department has established by [code](#) that all buildings in the City of Cudahy that have an occupancy of three or more residential units, commercial or manufacturing process be equipped with a secured access system for use by the Cudahy Fire Department. This system is commonly called the Knox Box within the City.

The premise of this system is simple: Provide the Cudahy Fire Department with keys to every structure in the City of Cudahy that may not have a key holder on site 24 hours a day. The Fire Department prior to this system used to carry a very large ring with keys and labels in each primary fire engine. This system was very cumbersome and time consuming.

The replacement system involves utilizing a secured box mounted to the building containing the keys and other important information about the property. All of the boxes are then keyed with the same key, allowing the fire department to access any box in the city with a single key.

The system employed by the City of Cudahy is through the Knox Company. The box is custom made and keyed according to the contract with the City of Cudahy. The Cudahy Fire Department is the only agency that possesses any key for this box. This ensures the integrity of the system, and maintains a highly secure process.

The advantages to the secured access box system are:

- reduced wait time to access the building and any critical areas that may be the subject of a fire alarm;
- streamlined tracking and accountability of the keys for each property;
- a better system to secure the keys;

- a consistent system for all buildings;
- reduced damage to the property from forced entry;
- and an easily secured property following the response.

The goal for the Cudahy Fire Department is to have all applicable properties equipped with this time saving and money saving piece of equipment.

All a property owner needs to do is contact the Cudahy Fire Department at 414-769-2233 and ask to speak with a fire inspector regarding a Knox Box. The inspector will arrange a time with the property owner to speak about the proper placement of the device on the exterior of the structure, and the process of filling out and submitting the application. The application can only be obtained from a Cudahy Fire Department fire inspector. This application is not available online, and cannot be faxed or emailed.

Homeowners

Homeowners are also encouraged to consider the installation of a Knox Box on their home. Certain circumstances in a person's life may make reliance on others a primary concern. Many times people will have a remote assistance button to summon help when they have fallen. This is a valuable tool when a person tries to maintain independence. What is not included with this item is a means to properly secure the home, but allow first responders access at the same time.

The Knox Box is an ideal tool for such a situation. The key to the home is securely locked inside the box, and the box is only accessed when the Fire Department is summoned to render aid. This allows for an individual to live independently, while still getting the help they need, when they need it, without compromising the home's security.

The Knox Box can be installed near the doorway, between the door and the storm door, or mounted directly to the door, depending on the preference of the homeowner. Once the unit is installed, the property is added to the list of properties that are protected by this valuable tool. When the call for aid goes out, the first responders are notified by dispatch that the property has a Knox Box, and its location on the home.

This saves valuable time and prevents unnecessary damage if a person simply needs help getting to their feet.

The Knox Box system does not provide portability. If a family decides to move to another community, outside of Cudahy, the Knox Box will not operate. The key to any individual Knox Box within the City of Cudahy is keyed specifically to Cudahy.

Any interested family should contact the Cudahy Fire Department at 414-769-2233 and ask to speak with a fire inspector regarding a Knox Box for their home. It adds security and peace of mind for anyone caring for an aging or ill family member.